

PW would like to thank John Day and Andrew Frost for their help with the survey, Mr Brookman who owns the adjacent farm and quarry, for access permission, Mr Stephen Anthony of the John O'Gaunt Golf Course for his co-operation and interest and Butterfly Conservation who finance the project, with contributory funding from English Nature.— PAUL WARING & JOHN DAY, Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6LS.

***Biston betularia* L. ab. *albapicata* Cockayne (Lep.: Geometridae) in Kent**

This aberration was described by Cockayne in 1953 (*Ent. Rec.* **65**: 168, plate 13) from a specimen in the National (RCK) Collection, taken at Tibshelf, Derbyshire in 1925.

It closely resembles ab. *carbonaria* Jordan, but the apex of the forewing at its extremity is white, although the bordering fringe remains black, and on the hindwing costa there is a small area which is whitish, speckled black. A male specimen was attracted to my garden mv light here at Dartford on 21 July 2005. This is an interesting aberration, perhaps easily overlooked, and one that I have not seen previously. It is not listed by Chalmers-Hunt 1976 (*The butterflies and Moths of Kent. Suppl. Ent. Rec.* **88** 156) and would appear to be a rarity. The Dartford specimen is probably the first to be noted for the county.— B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

**Slender Ground-hopper *Tetrix subulata* (L.) (Orth.: Tetrigidae) in Northamptonshire**

According to Ragge (1965. *Grasshoppers, Crickets and Cockroaches of the British Isles*. Warne) and, more recently Marshall & Haes (1990. *Grasshoppers and allied insects of Great Britain and Ireland*), the Slender Ground-hopper *Tetrix subulata* has not been recorded from Northamptonshire. Thus, it was with some pleasure that I discovered several examples inhabiting a small overflow pond near to the village of Braunston, Northamptonshire. All of the insects jumped into the water upon my approach and it was quite fascinating to watch them, swim ashore, just under the surface. One was approached by a Common Pond Skater *Gerris lacustris* (L.) and immediately stopped swimming until the danger had passed. One wonders if the groundhopper was aware of the predatory nature of the skater.

The pond is often completely dry by July and does not fill up again until the winter rains. Do the immature adult hoppers over-winter in the mud at the bottom of the pond? The surrounding vegetation is usually cropped short by cattle that wallow whilst water remains. This must make it a hazardous habitat for the ground-hopper. — K. F. WILLIAMS, Arcanum House, 45 Braunston Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire NN11 9BY.